

# THE JEWISH HERALD

VOL. 1.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, NOVEMBER 12 1908.

NO. 8

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## The Galveston Movement.

Movement to Divert Jewish Immigration from New York Is Interesting.

The so-called Galveston movement to divert Jewish immigration from New York to the gulf port has attracted wide attention. The doubt has been as to the feasibility of the plan. "Would not the newcomers," it has been asked, "be dissatisfied in the West and drift back to the Eastern settlements of their own nationality?"

The plan has been effective for so short a time that sufficient data to answer the question positively have not yet accumulated. Still the experience of one of the most important distribution centers for the Galveston movement is instructive. Of approximately 1,000 immigrants who landed in Galveston in the six months following the establishing of the Jewish Immigrants Information Bureau, July 1, 1907, about 10 per cent. were sent to Kansas City, where they came under the care of the United Jewish Charities and of Jacob Billikopf, superintendent.

An individual record of each of these hundred persons has been kept by him. It was rarely necessary to furnish board longer than a week at an individual cost of between five and six dollars. Within that time positions were almost invariably found. The period covered includes the months of financial depression which made employment uncertain. Mr. Billikopf found 375 jobs for his hundred charges. In most instances positions were lost through no fault of the employees. Rarely have more than half a dozen men been out of work at one time, for the West has not been so seriously affected by the financial depressions as the East.

All sorts of occupations are represented among the immigrants. There are tailors, shoemakers, bricklayers, tanners, blacksmiths, butchers, bookkeepers,

locksmiths, woodworkers. Wherever possible the men have been provided with work at their own occupations. In many cases, however, this has proved impossible and they have taken whatever offered. At present the tailors are making the highest wages. In some instances their pay has gone to \$17 and \$18 and even \$20 a week. Of the eighty-eight persons listed as at work May 1, forty-eight were receiving wages under \$10 a week, with \$5.50 as the minimum. Thirty-six were getting between \$10 and \$15, and four were making \$15 or more, the maximum being \$20.

The record kept at the office of the United Jewish Charities in Kansas City makes interesting reading. There is W. B., for instance, soapmaker, who arrived July 1, 1907. He is working in a packing house for \$9 a week. Since his arrival he has saved \$175 and has sent for his family in Russia. N. P., a tailor who is making \$16 a week, has saved \$100 and expects to send for his family. I. Z., a laborer in a junk yard at \$9 a week, has sent more than \$100 to Russia. M. G., who arrived August 6, out of his salary of \$10.50 a week as a sash and door maker, has saved \$100 and has sent for his oldest daughter from Russia. M. B., an iron worker, on \$12 a week saved \$110, and now has taken a small farm.

So it goes down the list, with only two discouraging entries—one man who was implicated in a theft and left town, and another who is listed as an unde-

[Continued on Page 2.]

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